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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,892	08/29/2001	Eric D. Anderson	500247.03	2384

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EXAMINER

ENGLAND, DAVID E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

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08/24/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/943,892	Applicant(s) ANDERSON, ERIC D.	
	Examiner David E. England	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 32 - 36 and 45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 32 - 36 and 45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DL

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 30, 32 – 36 and 45 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 05/29/2007. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 30, 33 – 35 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon (6067561) in view of Arnold (6275848) and what is well known in the art.**

5. Referencing claim 30, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Dillon teaches a computer-implemented method for one of a plurality of designated recipients of an Email communication to receive the Email, comprising:

6. receiving on a recipient's computer an Email communication notification from the server that references the single copy of the Email communication, the Email communication

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notification distinct from the Email communication, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65);

7. requesting from the server the referenced Email communication, the request being sent to the Email communication program from the recipient's computer system, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65), but does not specifically teach providing an Email communication program on a server that is configured with instructions to store a single copy of the Email communication on the server if the Email communication is designated for the plurality of recipients;

8. receiving by the recipient's computer system from the server, the requested Email communication.

9. saving the Email communication on the server if any one of the recipients indicate it is to be saved; and

10. when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent and accessed by all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program if none of the recipients indicate it is to be saved.

11. Arnold teaches providing an Email communication program on a server that is configured with instructions to store a single copy of a section of the Email communication on the server if the Email communication is designated for the plurality of recipients, (e.g. col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 42);

12. receiving by the recipient's computer system from the server, the requested section of the Email communication, (e.g. col. 3, line 57 – col. 4, line 42); and

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13. saving the Email communication on the server if any one of the recipients indicate it is to be saved, (e.g., col. 3, lines 3 – 9, “... *which allows recipients of an electronic message to access, edit and save new versions of remotely located attachments...*”); and

14. when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent and accessed by all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program if none of the recipients indicate it is to be saved, (e.g., col. 4, lines 43 – 57, “*Such deletion from the access list may occur at the instruction of the recipient or may occur automatically after for first access... Once the access list goes to null (i.e., all the intended recipients are deleted from the access list), the attachment is deleted from the server*” & col. 5, lines 36 – 44, “*a sender of a message may define the access rights of the remotely-located attachment. For example, access may be limited to only those recipients of the e-mail message. The rights may include read only; read and save only... The attachments may also be subject to access control rights designated by entities other than the sender of the message.*”).

15. Furthermore, it can be understood by the prior art of Arnold, if a recipient wishes to be taken off the list, the recipient is indicating that they wish to be done with the attachment and therefore have no need to have it saved on a server anymore and therefore can be deleted since once all recipients have been taken off the list the attachment can be automatically deleted. It is also reminded to the Applicant that it is well known in the art that the sender of an email can CC: or BCC: themselves and therefore also become a recipient.

16. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Arnold with Dillon because it would be more efficient to conserve space with having one central location, having users reference the single copy of the email then having multiple copies of an attachment taking up substantial space. Furthermore, it is more convenient for a user to have a local copy of an Email so incase the user is off line and wants to modify the local copy of the attachment, the user could with out modifying the original attachment that could be used as an archived document for reference if desired. Arnold does not specifically teach storing a single copy of an email message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to store a single copy of an email instead of just an attachment since it is well known in the art that an email is nothing more than a message or document sent between users and it would only take one of ordinary skill in the art to, instead of storing a single copy of an attachment, which can also be considered a message, storing a single copy of an email utilizing the teachings of Arnold's criteria for storing a single copy of a message or document. Arnold teaches adding users to the access list, which would allow a new user rights to view the document but does not specifically teach forwarding, (e.g. col. 5, lines 51 – 57, "*a recipient may be added if certain modification rules are met.*"). Forwarding electronic messages to another user in an email system is well known in the art at the time the invention was made and would only take one of ordinary skill in the art to forward the electronic message to a new users and add them to an access list, which would give the user the ability to view the document saved in a storage device.

17. As per claim 33, Dillon does not specifically teach storing the Email communication locally by the recipient on the recipients computer system such that the local stored Email

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communication is preserved even when the Email communication program deletes the single stored copy of the Email communication from the server.

18. Official Notice is taken that it was a common practice to store the Email communication locally by the recipient on the recipients computer system such that the local stored Email communication is preserved even when the Email communication program deletes the single stored copy of the Email communication from the server at the time the instant invention was made.

19. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Dillon because of similar reasons stated above. Furthermore, if the user saves the Email locally on one computer and disconnects from the network and then logs in on a different computer and deletes the Email on the server there is no way for the Email to be deleted on the first computer. Also if the user were to save the Email on a floppy disk and then delete the Email from the server, the server cannot delete the Email on the floppy disk, especially if the floppy disk is removed.

20. Applicant has failed to seasonably challenge the Examiner's assertions of well known subject matter in the previous Office action(s) pursuant to the requirements set forth under MPEP §2144.03. A "seasonable challenge" is an explicit demand for evidence set forth by Applicant in the next response. Accordingly, the claim limitations the Examiner considered as "well known" in the first Office action, i.e. "storing the Email communication locally by the recipient on the recipients computer system such that the local stored Email communication is preserved even when the Email communication program deletes the single stored copy of the Email

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communication from the server,” are now established as admitted prior art of record for the course of the prosecution. See *In re Chevenard*, 139 F.2d 71, 60 USPQ 239 (CCPA 1943).

21. As per claim 34, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Dillon teaches the Email communication received from the server is encrypted using a public encryption key for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, and including retrieving a private encryption key for the one of the plurality of designated recipients to decrypt the Email communication, (e.g. col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 15).

22. As per claim 35, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Dillon and Arnold teach all that is similar in nature to claims 30 and 34, more specifically, Dillon teaches the acts of receiving the notification, requesting the Email communication and receiving the Email communication are performed by a receiving computer lacking sufficient permanent storage to store the Email communication, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65).

23. Claim 45 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

24. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon and Arnold in further view of Devine et al. (6385644) (hereinafter Devine).

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25. As per claim 32, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Dillon and Arnold do not specifically teach receiving the Email communication notification, storing the Email communication notification locally on the recipients computer system.

26. Devine teaches receiving the Email communication notification, storing the Email communication notification locally on the recipients computer system, (e.g. col. 12, lines 40 – 55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Devine with the combine system of Dillon and Arnold because of similar reasons stated above and further, if a user has a personal records of Email communication notifications it could prevent loss of information if the server were to break down and/or crash, (i.e. redundancy).

27. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon and Arnold and in further view of Homan et al. (6317485).

28. Referencing claim 36, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Dillon and Arnold do not specifically teach wherein contents of the received Email communication notification are based on preferences for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, the preferences previously supplied to the server configured with the Email communication program. Homan teaches wherein contents of the received Email communication notification are based on preferences for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, the preferences previously supplied to the server configured with the Email communication program, (e.g. col. 6, lines 28 – 49 & col. 7, lines 1 – 44). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Homan with the combine system of Dillon and Arnold because of similar reasons stated

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above and further it would be more efficient for a system to utilize a type of preference setting to classify or possibly utilize different types of Email communication notifications. This will diversify the way a user may receive notifications about incoming Email.

Response to Arguments

29. Applicant's arguments filed 05/29/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

30. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that the prior art of Dillon and Arnold do not teach the newly added limitation of "saving the Email communication on the server if any one of the recipients indicate it is to be saved; and

31. when it is determined that the Email communication has been sent and accessed by all of the recipients, deleting the stored Email communication by the Email communication program if none of the recipients indicate it is to be saved."

32. As to the Applicant's arguments, Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant and has stated the newly cited areas of the prior art that clearly teaches, in combination to what is well known in the art, the newly added claim limitation. It is stated above the interpretation of the newly added limitation and how it is rejected with the prior art.

33. All other claims are rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

David E. England
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

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